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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/568,021	02/10/2006	David R. Curry	03-1051-B	7384
20306	7590	10/21/2008	EXAMINER	
MCDONNELL BOEHNEN HULBERT & BERGHOFF LLP			KAVANAUGH, JOHN T	
300 S. WACKER DRIVE			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/568,021	Applicant(s) CURRY, DAVID R.
	Examiner /Ted Kavanaugh/	Art Unit 3728

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If no period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-5,7-12 and 14-31 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-5,7-12 and 14-31 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/0256/06)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) Other: ____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-4,7-12,14-17,19-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US 5544430 (Jacko).

Jacko teaches an interchangeable upper portion (20) defining an outer perimeter (22), one or more releasable fasteners (26,48) disposed along the outer perimeter for aligning the interchangeable upper portion to an article of footwear having a fixed upper (40) and a fixed sole (42), one or more alignment means (shoe laces 28 and/or eyelets which the laces are extending through) disposed on the interchangeable upper away from the outer perimeter. The laces (28) close the opening of the interchangeable upper and therefore form a shape similar to the upper of the article footwear and therefore inherently align the interchangeable upper portion on an article footwear, when initially placed one over the other, prior to releasably fastening the interchangeable upper portion to an article of footwear. Regarding claim 2 and the like, Jacko teaches the laces or retaining means (28) can also be hook and loop fasteners; see col. 4, lines 32-48. Regarding the fixed upper having one or more alignment mechanisms for receiving alignment mechanisms of the interchangeable upper portion; the fixed upper (40) and the interchangeable upper (28) as shown in figure 1 both have

eyelets that are aligned with each other and therefore are inherently capable of being laced together and therefore satisfy all the functional language as claimed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 5 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jacko '430.

Jacko teaches footwear as claimed (see the rejection above for details) except for the fixed upper portion being made of breathable material. Jacko teaches that the cover for covering the upper portion of the shoe can be "porous to allow the fabric to breathe", col. 3, lines 62. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to make the material of the upper also porous to allow the user's foot to breathe.

5. Claim 30 and 31 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jacko as applied to claim 23 above, and further in view of US 2302596 (Bigio).

Bigio teaches an article of footwear wherein the upper and the sole are releasably retained by a zipper disposed along the outer perimeter of the footwear and extend away from the sole at a heel portion of the article of footwear (see figures 2 and 3 and page 1, col. 1, line 52 to col. 2, line 11). Jacko also teaches other types of cooperating fastening means known in the art can be used; see col. 3, line 66 to col. 4,

line 6. It would have been obvious to substitute the releasable fasteners (hook and loop 26 and 28) of Jacko with a zipper extending around the outer perimeter and away from sole at the heel, as taught by Bigio, to facilitate removing the upper and spreading them to facilitate storing of different uppers.

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-27 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection. The same reference (Jacko) is being re-applied to the claims but in view of the amendment the reference has been applied in a different way and therefore a new ground(s) of rejection exist.

Conclusion

7. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of

the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

9. Applicant is duly reminded that a complete response must satisfy the requirements of 37 C. F. R. 1.111, including:

“The reply must present arguments pointing out the *specific* distinctions believed to render the claims, including any newly presented claims, patentable over any applied references.”

--“A general allegation that the claims define a patentable invention without specifically pointing out how the language of the claims patentably distinguishes them from the references does not comply with the requirements of this section.”

-Moreover, “The prompt development of a clear issue requires that the replies of the applicant meet the objections to and rejections of the claims. Applicant should also specifically point out the support for any amendments made to the disclosure. See MPEP 2163.06” MPEP 714.02. The “disclosure” includes the claims, the specification and the drawings.

10. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). Other useful information can be obtained at the PTO Home Page at www.uspto.gov.

In order to avoid potential delays, Technology Center 3700 is encouraging FAXing of responses to Office Actions directly into the Center at (571) 273-8300 (**FORMAL FAXES ONLY**). Please identify Examiner Ted Kavanaugh of Art Unit 3728 at the top of your cover sheet.

Any inquiry concerning the MERITS of this examination from the examiner should be directed to Ted Kavanaugh whose telephone number is (571) 272-4556. The examiner can normally be reached from 6AM - 4PM. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mickey Yu can be reached on (571) 272-4562.

If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (In United States OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Ted Kavanaugh/
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3728

TK
October 22, 2008